

Serial No.: 10/814,970
Amdt. dated 29 March 2006
Reply to Office Action of 29 September 2005

REMARKS

As noted above, the Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application.

In the specification, paragraph [0023] has been amended to address a minor editorial issue.

Claims 1-36 remain in the application. Claims 1-8, 11-16, 19-34, and 36 were rejected in the Office Action of 29 September 2005. Claims 9, 10, 17, 18, and 35 were objected to. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 19-22, 24, and 35 have been amended by the present amendment to the claims. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 26-34, and 36 have been canceled without prejudice.

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and for the following reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 9-10, 17-18 and 35 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, by the present amendment, claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim, i.e., original claim 1, and the intervening claims, i.e., original claims 3, 5, and 8. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 8 have subsequently been cancelled. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 19-22, and 24 have been amended to depend from independent amended claim 9.

The present amendment also amends claims 35 in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim, i.e., original claim 32, and intervening claims, i.e., original claims 33 and 34. Original claims 32-34 have subsequently been canceled.

Serial No.: 10/814,970
Amdt. dated 29 March 2006
Reply to Office Action of 29 September 2005

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herein, Applicants believe that all claims in the present application are in condition for allowance, and therefore respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for the application.

If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our deposit account no. 50-1133, for a three-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, or any other required fee(s).

Respectfully submitted,

McDermott, Will & Emery

Date: 29 March 2006



Toby H. Kusmer, P.C., Reg. No. 26,418
G. Matthew McCloskey, Reg. No. 47,025
Attorneys for Applicants
28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-1775
Telephone: (617) 535-4000
Facsimile: (617) 535-3800